Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03528 01 OF 02 090247Z ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 H-01 PA-01 /100 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3289

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03528

E.O. 11652: GDS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03528 01 OF 02 090247Z

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, UNGA, RQ

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITEE OF 24 SEPTEMBER 8

REF: USUN 3505

1. SUMMARY. INDIAN AMB JAIPAL'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE

AGREEMENT ON RESOLUTION TEXT THAT COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSENSUS ON PUERTO RICO CAME TO ABRUPT END LATE AFTERNOON SEPT 8 WHEN CUBA SUDDENLY DECIDED TO INTRODUCE NEW RESOLUTION WITHOUT JAIPAL-PROPOSED CHANGES IT HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED. NEW RESOLUTION, WHILE CONTAINING SEVERAL PROVISIONS UNACCEPTABLE TO US AND OTHERS, IS IMPROVEMENT OVER EARLIER PROPOSAL AND DOES NOT REFER QUESTION TO GA FOR ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. INDIAN AMB JAIPAL ASKED TO SEE AMB LEONARD AND MISOFF MIDDAY SEPT 8 TO REPORT ON HIS FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH CUBANS AND SOVIETS THAT MORNING ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN C-24. HE GAVE US COPY OF "CUBAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL" (BASICALLY SAME TEXT AS SUBMITTED TO C-24 LATER IN DAY, SEPTEL) TO TEXT HE HAD SUGGESTED TO THEM PREVIOUS EVENING. WE POINTED OUT SEVERAL PROVISIONS THAT WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO US AND SOMEWHAT LATER HE GAVE US NUMBER OF REVISIONS WHICH HE SAID HE HAD ALSO SUGGESTED TO CUBANS. IN COURSE OF NEXT SEVERAL HOURS HE SHUTTLED BETWEEN US AND CUBANS IN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON TEXT THAT COULD THEN SERVE AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WITH OTHER C-24 MEMBERS IN HOPE OF ACHIEVING CONSENSUS. ASSUMPTION WAS THAT IF US AND CUBA WERE ON BOARD OTHERS WOULD COME ALONG WITH LITTLE OR NO DIFFICULTY. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03528 01 OF 02 090247Z

- 3. WE WERE IN CONTACT WITH DEPT ON LAST BIT OF WORDING ON WHICH JAIPAL WAS AWAITING OUR RESPONSE WHEN HE SUDDENLY INFORMED MISOFF THAT CUBANS HAD "GONE BACK ON EVERYTHING" AND WERE ABOUT TO INTRODUCE IN C-24 NEW TEXT AS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO HIM IN PLACE OF CUBAN/IRAQI RESOLUTION ALREADY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. OBVIOUSLY VERY ANGRY, HE SAID HE HAD "WASTED ENTIRE DAY" AND WAS NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN C-24 CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN VOTE, BUT LATER CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN C-24 REP SIKRI INDICATED THAT FINAL INDIAN POSITION NOT YET DETERMINED. JAIPAL SAID HE WOULD MAKE CLEAR TO OTHER C-24 MEMBERS THAT US HAD SHOWN FLEXIBILITY AND THAT IT WAS CUBA'S DECISION TO BREAK OFF CONSULTATIONS THAT HAD PREVENTED CONSENSUS
- 4. ALTHOUGH INDIAN STATEMENT IN C-24, WHICH HAD DELAYED ITS MEETING UNTIL 5 P.M., IN LIGHT OF CONSULTATIONS IN PROGRESS, WAS BRIEF AND MILDLY-WORDED, MESSAGE APPARENTLY CAME THROUGH CLEARLY TO OTHER MEMBERS WHO WERE ALL AWARE OF EFFORTS IN WHICH JAIPAL HAD BEEN ENGAGED. ONE REP

CHARACTERIZED INDIAN STATEMENT AS "SAVAGE" AND ANOTHER AS "VERY TOUGH". YUGOSLAVS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN VERY UPSET BY DEVELOPMENTS, AS IT APPEARED THAT CONSENSUS DESIRED BY MOST WAS ON VERGE OF ACHIEVEMENT. AUSTRALIA ALSO REPORTS THAT IT UNDERSTANDS CHINA NOW PLANS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN VOTING

5. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH AUSTRALIA (MORRIS), SWEDEN (HEINEBACK), INDONESIA (JUWANA) AND INDIA (SIKRI) THIS EVENING AND ALL ARE CONSIDERING HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH NEW SITUATION. AUSTRALIANS ARE INCLINED TO FAVOR REQUESTING SEPARATE VOTES ON MOST OBJECTIONABLE PARAGRAPHS (OPERATIVE 3, 4 AND 7) RATHER THAN PROPOSING AMENDMENTS. THEY SUGGEST THAT CUBANS MIGHT REVERT TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USUN N 03528 01 OF 02 090247Z

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03528 02 OF 02 090249Z ACTION IO-14

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03528

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL OR PARTS THEREOF IF AMENDMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 03528 02 OF 02 090249Z

SUBMITTED TO CURRENT TEXT (WHICH IS PREFERABLE TO EARLIER DRAFT). SWEDEN IS ALSO WEIGHING TWO ALTERNATIVES, AND INDIA IS CONTEMPLATING POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS. SIKRI WAS NOT SURE WHETHER JAIPAL MIGHT SIMPLY WANT TO HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH THE MATTER. INDIA'S PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY WITH CURRENT TEXT IS "COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWERS" WORDING IN OPERATIVE PARA 3. INDONESIA ALSO OPPOSES THIS PROVISION. BOTH MORRIS AND SIKRI BELIEVE C-24 WOULD SUPPORT REQUEST FOR SEPARATE VOTES ON PROBLEM PARAGRAPHS SHOULD SPONSORS OBJECT TO THAT PROCEDURE. (IF THERE IS OBJECTION TO SUCH REQUEST, COMMITTEE DECIDES WHETHER TO GRANT REQUEST OR NOT.)

6. WE WILL RE-ASSESS SITUATION MONDAY WHEN WE CAN BE IN TOUCH WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS. FOR MOMENT, HOWEVER, WE ARE IN IMPROVED POSITION. DESPITE OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS IN NEW TEXT, IN PARTICULAR OPERATIVE PARAS 3 AND 4, THIS DRAFT IS CLEARLY PREFERABLE TO PREVIOUS ONE, ESPECIALLY IN THAT OPERATIVE PARA 9 LIMITS ACTION TO C-24 AND QUESTION IS NOT REFERRED TO GA. MOREOVER, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE THAT TEXT MAY BE IMPROVED BEFORE FINAL VOTE. IN ADDITION, THE FACT WE HAVE SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN GENUINE EFFORT FOR CONSENSUS, WHILE CUBANS HAVE BLOCKED CONSENSUS THAT ALMOST CERTAINLY WAS WITHIN REACH, HAS NOT BEEN LOST ON C-24 MEMBERS. WHETHER THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN VOTE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. BUT WE BELIEVE IT CAN ONLY REDOUND TO OUR BENEFIT IN GENERAL ATTITUDES OF MOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS. YOUNG

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Subject: DEVELOPMENTS ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITEE OF 24 SEPTEMBER 8

TAGS: PORG, PDEV, RQ, UNGA, COMMITTEE OF 24

To: STATE Type: TE

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